(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government to examine the feasibility of setting up a passenger car plant in the port cities of Visakhapatnam or Kakinada; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request has been received from Andhra Pradesh Government for setting up of a passenger car plant by M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) in the port cities of Visakhapatnam or Kakinada. Since MUL is a non-Government Company and a view on the location of the plant is therefore to be taken by MUL Board of Directors; the matter has been referred to MUL.

Supply of Rice and Wheat to the PDS Benefidaries.Bdow the Poverty Line at a Highly subsidised Price

1668. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI PARAS CHALIHA

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided that the "PDS beneficiaries below the poverty line" would be provided rice and wheat at SO ger cent of the issue price as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated die* 21st November, 1996.

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the definition of "beneficiaries below the poverty tine" from income point of view;

(c) whether it is a fact that the above scheme would cost the Centre nearly Rs. 1,000 crore; and

(d) if so, by when the new scheme is likely to be implemented and whether State Governments are also required to make any countribution financially in respect of existing PDS in the States?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AN1 MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLK DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRy PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The issu of streamlining the Public Distributio System witii focus on the poor by provi< ine rice and wheat at half the norm; issue price to the population living belo the poverty line is under consideration < the Government.

Trend of GEM and Jewellery Export!

1669. SHRI SUNDER SING] BHANDARI: Will the Minister of CON MERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export figure for gem an jewellery for the last three years;

(b) whether Government have *e:* amined the reasons for the downwai trend in export of these items;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the hike in the interei rate on post-shipment credit and routir of import documents through banks hav been factors affective the growth; and

(e) if so, Government's strategy t deal with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHE BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) T* export figures for gems and jewellery ft the last three years are as follows;

(Valiie in US S Millira

ITEM	199344	1994-95	1995-'
DIAMONDS	3574.50	3937.00	4577. .
CiOLD	308.60	421.20	480.'
LERY			
OTHERS	111.60	142.20	222.:
TOTAL:	3994.70	4500.40	5275. '

SOURCE : DGa A S.

(b) and (c) There has been substanti; growth in export in this sector over tit last three years. However, recently son

deceleration in export growth has been noticed due to overall decline in demand for both diamonds as well as studded jewellery in a number of major maikctv As also a fall in F.O.B. prices of cut polished diamonds.

(d) and (e) Exporters of gem & jewellery have brought to the notice of the Govt, that the revised interest rates on post-shipment credit anil routing >>| import documents through hanks have added to their costs and consequently have affected their competitiveness in the World market. Keeping in view the present scenario in this sector, RBI has recently lowered the interest rates on post-shipment credit and has also allowed authorised dealers to receive import documents up to US$ 25.000 by value on its equivalent direct from the overseas seller subject to fulfilment of certain requirements.

Refusal of Maternity leave in Private Schools

1670. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be

pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the complaints of refusal of maternity leave in the private schools; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) To (b) except in the case of mines and circus industry the provisions of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 arc being administered by the State Governments. Therefore, the complaint regarding refusal of such facilities in private schools or any other establishments arc made directly to or referred to the concerned State Government, who take further appropriate action as per laws.

खनिज भंडारों का पता लगाने के लिए भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण द्वारा किया गया सर्वेक्षण

1671. श्री अनन्तराव देवाईकर दवेः क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण ने राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कोई सर्वेक्षण कराया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके परिणामस्वरूप पता लगाए गए खनिज भंडारों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) सरकार ने खनिज भंडारों का तेजी से पता लगाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये हैं; और

(घ) क्या इस संबंध में भागीदारी करने हेतु किसी बहु-राष्ट्रिक कंपनी/किन्हीं निजी औद्योगिक घरानों को आमंत्रित किया गया है?

इस्पात मंत्री तथा खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद वैश्य): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान जिन महत्वपूर्ण अतिरिक्त खनिज संसाधनों का पता लगाया गया जिसमें निम्नलिखित खनिज संसाधन शामिल हैः

(1) आंध्र प्रदेश, बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, उड़ीसा और पश्चिम बंगाल के कोयला क्षेत्रों में लगभग 4117.54 मिलियन टन कोयला।

(2) गुजरात और तमिलनाडु में लगभग 270 मिलियन टन लिग्नाइट

(3) उत्तर प्रदेश और राजस्थान में 1.07% से 6.63% सीसे और जस्ते की मात्रा सहित 6.84 मिलियन टन सीसा-जस्तक अयस्क।

(4) बिहार में 3.93% धातु की मात्रा सहित 0.43 मिलियन टन तांबा-सीसा-जस्ता अयस्क।

(5) मध्य प्रदेश में 7.38 मी॰ सघन अयस्क क्षेत्र जिसमें 1.66% तांबा और 8.61% जस्ता और महाराष्ट्र में 1.2% तांबा सहित 0.7 मिलियन टन अयस्क।

(6) कर्नाटक, आंध्र प्रदेश, केरल, राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश और महाराष्ट्र में 1.28 से 11.99 ग्राम/टन औसत ग्रेड वाले स्वर्ण का लगभग 6.83 मिलियन टन स्वर्ण अयस्क। इसके अलावा केरल, राजस्थान, उड़ीसा और बिहार में अनेक आशाजनक स्वर्णमय क्षेत्रों का पता लगाया गया है।